

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NASA-01
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USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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DIA WASHDC

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: NEUTRON WEAPON COMMENTARY CITES ADMINISTRATION
"VACILLATIONS"

SUMMARY: IZVESTIYA OF APRIL 11 AND RED STAR OF APRIL 12
CARRY LENGTHY SIGNED COMMENTARIES ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON.
IZVESTIYA IS OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
"VACILLATIONS, INDECISIVENESS, AND INCONSISTENCY" ON
THE ERW AND ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, INCLUDING SALT. END
SUMMARY.

1. RED STAR COMMENTARY BY COL. A. LEONTIEV IS THOROUGHLY
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ROUTINE, ALTHOUGH IT DOES LOWER THE LEVEL OF THE TONE OF
THE DISCUSSION SOMEWHAT FURTHER BY CONDEMNING THE "LIES"
OF THOSE WHO FAVOR MANUFACTURE OF THE ER/RB WEAPON.
IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR S. KONDRASHOV ATTEMPTS TO GO
DEEPER BY DISCUSSING THE BASIS OF THE "INDEFINITE
DECISION" OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON, WHICH
HE ATTRIBUTES TO A BROADER "FACT." THIS "FACT," WHICH

HE SAYS IS EVIDENT ALSO IN SALT, IS THAT OF "THE
VACILLATIONS, THE INDECISIVENESS, AND THE INCONSISTENCY
IN THE APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO ARMS
CONTROL QUESTIONS AND TO INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AS A WHOLE."
KONDRASHOV GOES ON TO ASSERT THAT THE PRESIDENT AILED TO
SATISFY EITHER THE OPPONENTS OF THE RB/ER WEA ON OR THOSE
WHO WANT ITS IMMEDIATE INTRODUCTION, AND THEN STATES
THAT MANY IN CONGRESS FAVOR THE WEAPON. THE ASSERTIVENESS
O THIS LATTER GROUP, AND ITS STRENGTH, KONDRASHOV
ARGUES, "FEEDS ON THE DUALITY, INDECISIVENESS, AND
INCONSISTENCY O THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION."

2. KONDRASHOV QUOTES THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT HIS
FINAL DECISION WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THE DEGREE OF
RESTRAINT SHOWN BY THE SOVIET UNION. THE USSR IS SHOWING
RESTRAINT, KONDRASHOV ARGUES, BY OFFERING MUTUAL RENUN-
CIATION OF THE RB/ER WEAPON. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH
A REITERATION THAT MUTUAL RENUNCIATION IS THE
"REASONABLE APPROACH" TO THIS QUESTION.

3. COMMENT: KONDRASHOV GIVES FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT
MOSCOW HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE NATURE OF THE DECISION
ON THE RB/ER WEAPON GIVES IT AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO
CONTINUE ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE U.S. TOON

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